

REMARKS

Summary Of Office Action

Claims 1-23 are pending in this application.

The Examiner allowed claims 13-16.

Claims 1, 4, 9-12, 17-19, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Wang et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,663,665 (hereinafter "Wang").

Claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious from Lin U.S. Patent No. 6,812,753 (hereinafter "Lin") in view of Wang.

Claims 2, 3, 5-8, 20, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious from Wang in view of Kwak U.S. Patent No. 6,768,361 (hereinafter "Kwak").

Summary Of Applicant's Reply

Applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 13-16.

Applicant has amended the specification to correct a minor grammatical error.

Claims 1, 8, 17, and 20-23 have been amended to more clearly define the invention. No new matter has been added.

Reconsideration of this application in view of the amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Rejections Of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 4, 9-12, 17-19, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Wang. Claims 1, 17, and 22 are independent claims.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to set forth that at least one delay unit provides "at least three stages of increasingly finer variable phase adjustment." This claim limitation is clearly supported in the specification

(see, e.g., page 10, paragraph 29) and drawings (see FIGS. 5 and 6).

Independent method claim 17 has been amended to set forth that at least one of the generated phase-shifted clock signals is generated via "at least three stages of phase adjustment."

Similarly, independent claim 22 has been amended to set forth that the means for outputting a plurality of phase-shifted clock signals includes "means for providing at least three stages of phase adjustment."

None of the cited references shows or suggests this level of variable phase adjustment. Applicant therefore submits that independent claims 1, 17, and 22, and the claims dependent therefrom, are neither anticipated by nor obvious from Wang, Lin, or Kwak.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 1, 4, 9-12, 17-19, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

The Rejections Of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 2, 3, 5-8, 20, 21, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being obvious from either the combination of Lin and Wang or Wang and Kwak. Claims 20 and 23 are independent.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

For at least the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, dependent claims 2, 3, and 5-7, which depend from claim 1, should now be allowable (i.e., dependent claims are allowable if their independent claim is allowable).

Moreover, dependent claim 8 has been amended to further define that the three stages of phase adjustment include a variable delay line stage and two phase mixer stages. This limitation is not shown or suggested in any of

the cited references. Therefore, amended claim 8 should also be allowable.

Applicant has amended independent claim 20 to include three increasingly finer steps of adjusting clock signal phase shifts. Dependent claim 21 has been amended to conform to claim 20. As discussed above, these claims should now be allowable.

Similar to amended claim 22, claim 23 has been amended to set forth that the circuitry for outputting a plurality of phase-shifted clock signals includes "circuitry for providing at least three stages of phase adjustment." Thus, claim 23 should now also be allowable.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 2, 3, 5-8, 20, 21, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

The foregoing demonstrates that claims 1-23 are allowable. This application is therefore in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are accordingly respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Garry J. Tuma", is written over a horizontal line.

Garry J. Tuma
Registration No. 40,210
Attorney for Applicant

FISH & NEAVE IP Group
ROPES & GRAY LLP
Customer No. 1473
1251 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10020-1104
(212) 596-9000